

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IGA-01 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-10

OMB-01 OES-05 FEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /067 W

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R 150445Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0333

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

UNCLAS LAHORE 0191

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, ENRG, PK

SUBJECT: RAINS

REF: A. LAHORE 103

B. ISLAMABAD 974

SUMMARY: WINTER RAINS HAVE CONTINUED TO FALL AT NORMAL RATE IN PAKISTAN, RAISING HOPES THAT 1975 WHEAT CROP WILL SURPASS LAST YEAR'S, DESPITE LESSER ACREAGE. RAINS HAVE ALSO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED INFLOW OF WATER INTO MANGLA, CAUSING RESERVOIR TO RISE TWO FEET. IN ADDITION TO ENABLING IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT TO INCREASE WATER SUPPLY TO FARMERS, RISE IN MANGLA POND LEVEL PROVIDED SLIGHT, BUT MUCH NEEDED BOOST TO ELECTRICITY GENERATION. END SUMMARY.

1. RAINS HAVE CONTINUED TO FALL THROUGHOUT PAKISTAN DURING FIRST HALF OF FEBRUARY, CULMINATING IN HEALTHY BURST IN PAST WEEK WHICH AVERAGED HALF INCH FOR ENTIRE COUNTRY. (THAT FIGURE COMES FROM AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE WHO HOWEVER UNABLE TO GIVE US SPECIFICS FOR DIFFERENT LOCALITIES AT MOMENT.) RAINS HAVE ALSO FALLEN INTO CATCHMENT AREA FOR MANGLA DAM, PROVIDING RESERVOIR WITH ABOUT 12,000 CUSECS OF WATER OVER CURRENT DAILY DISCHARGE.

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IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT OFFICER TOLD US POND LEVEL AT MANGLA HAS

RISEN TWO FEET IN PAST THREE DAYS.

2. MOREOVER, HEAVY DOWNPOURS ALONG CHENAB RIVER BASIN CAUSED FRESHET IN THAT WATERWAY AMOUNTING TO ABOUT 100,000 CUSECS FOR BRIEF PERIOD FEBRUARY 13. IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES THAT WILL PROVIDE CANALS COMING OFF CHENAB WITH FIRST GOOD TWO-DAY SUPPLY OF WATER THIS WINTER FOR ALL OFFTAKE CANALS AT ONCE. WATER FROM THIS SOURCE WILL BE CHanneled AT LEAST AS FAR AS SULEIMANKI HEADWORKS AND THUS SHOULD BENEFIT FARMERS IN SAHIWAL AND BAHAWALNAGAR DISTRICTS IN SOUTHERN PUNJAB, WHO UP TO NOW HAVE RECEIVED ONLY PARTIAL RATION OF WATER AT INTERVALS OF 6-14 DAYS.

3. WHILE CANAL WATER MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO BENEFIT FARMERS IN SIND OR EXTREME SOUTH OF PUNJAB, PROSPECTS IN THOSE AREAS SEEM NONETHELESS BRIGHT. WE HAVE TALKED WITH NUMBER OF FARMERS FROM SOUTHERN PUNJAB, ALL OF WHOM REPORT GOOD RAINFALL THROUGHOUT AREA (THEY ALSO ASSERT THAT THEIR FRIENDS IN NORTHERN SIND TELL SAME STORY). TO A MAN, THEY HAVE TOLD US THEY COULD HAVE BETTER WHEAT CROP THIS YEAR (OVER 1974 CROP), DESPITE FACT MOST PLANTED ONLY 90 PERCENT OF LAST YEAR'S ACREAGE. THEY SAY THAT 1974 CROP HAD POOR YIELDS, AND THAT PRESENT CROP LOOKS MUCH BETTER SO FAR. HOWEVER, THEY POINT OUT THAT FINAL OUTCOME DEPENDS ENTIRELY UPON CONTINUING RAINS DURING NEXT SIX WEEKS.

4. RISE IN POND LEVEL AT MANGLA ALSO PROVIDED SLIGHT BREATHER TO WAPDA IN ITS EFFORTS TO PRODUCE ELECTRICITY. HOWEVER, NORTHERN GRID STILL EXPERIENCING DAILY POWER SHORTFALL OF OVER FIVE MILLION UNITS, DUE IN PART TO SLOWLY INCREASING DEMAND.  
GRIFFIN

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